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Finding Aid to the Thomas J. Harrison Scrapbook

Harrison, Thomas J.

Thomas J. Harrison Scrapbook, c.1913-1916

.25 l.f.

Photo 2126

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the University Archives.

Provenance: Donated by Judy Fowler, Linda Malcolmson & Karen Stepaniuk (granddaughters), September 2009 (UA Acc.767)

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Thomas J. Harrison Scrapbook, NDSU Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

Thomas James Harrison (1885-1964) was born in Graysville, Manitoba. He was not only the first graduate of Manitoba Agricultural College (University of Manitoba), but also an Instructor of Field Husbandry there until 1913.

From 1913-1915 he was Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Indian Head, Saskatchewan. He returned the Manitoba Agricultural College in 1915 as a Professor of Field Husbandry. Using experimental plots, he conducted soil and crop management studies. In 1920 he helped to found the Manitoba Agronomists Conference and in 1925 he became the Assistant

Commissioner for Manitoba with the Board of Grain Commissioners. In 1932 he was chair of the National Barley and Linseed Flax Committee. He was also active in the Manitoba Corn Committee, the Fire Flax committee, the Manitoba Seed Committee and the Grain Research Committee, as well as being instrumental in the creation of the Barley Improvement Institute. He traveled to Poland in 1947 as a representative of the UN Food and Drug organization to assist them with restoration of their agricultural industry. In 1948 he became Director of the Malting Barley Institute (now the Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute). His research interest focused primarily on the development of new breeds of barley for malting purposes. In later years he was recognized internationally for his work with the Malting Barley Institute.

He received numerous honors throughout his careers, most notable was his election to the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Royal Academy, the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame, and in 1951 received an honorary Doctor of Letters Degree from the University of Manitoba.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

In June of 2009, Judy Fowler (granddaughter of Thomas Harrison) sent to Dr. Dwain Meyer, North Dakota State Seed Department, approximately 80 pages of what seemed to be a photo journal that Thomas Harrison had created between 1913-1916, detailing his visit to North Dakota. The journal begins with a shot of silos in Ward County, North Dakota (Minot is the county seat) and a mention of the county agent, Mr. W.A. Peck, who was the country agent from 1912-1920. In addition to buildings (farmsteads, creameries, schools, banks, etc.), his journal documents crops, farm machinery, farm training techniques and demonstrations, Boys and Girls Clubs, and people engaged in various agricultural related activities. He also traveled to meet with the Steele County (Finley is the county seat) agent, A.E. Nelson (agent from 1913-1916), H.L. Bolley (Dean of Biology and Professor of Botany and Plant Pathology, North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo), Superintendent of the Williston Agricultural Sub-station, and the Boys and Girls Club in Hunter (Cass County). Note: All pages are in mylar sleeves.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

- 1 Finding Aid
- 2 Pages 1-34 of photo journal
- 3 Pages 35-70 of photo journal
- 4 Loose photographs cross-indexed to written text, pages A-I